

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY (Chapter I of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Rule 44bis)

Applicant's or agent's file reference JSONY-554PCT	FOR FURTHER ACTION		See item 4 below
International application No. PCT/JP2004/005740	International filing date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 21 April 2004 (21.04.2004)	Priority date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 21 April 2003 (21.04.2003)	
International Patent Classification (8th edition unless older edition indicated) See relevant information in Form PCT/ISA/237			
Applicant SONY CORPORATION			

1. This international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter I) is issued by the International Bureau on behalf of the International Searching Authority under Rule 44 bis.1(a).

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.

In the attached sheets, any reference to the written opinion of the International Searching Authority should be read as a reference to the international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter I) instead.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. I	Basis of the report
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. II	Priority
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. III	Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. IV	Lack of unity of invention
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VI	Certain documents cited
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VII	Certain defects in the international application
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII	Certain observations on the international application

4. The International Bureau will communicate this report to designated Offices in accordance with Rules 44bis.3(c) and 93bis.1 but not, except where the applicant makes an express request under Article 23(2), before the expiration of 30 months from the priority date (Rule 44bis.2).

Date of issuance of this report
02 March 2006 (02.03.2006)

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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

To:

PCT

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

(PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Applicant's or agent's file reference JSONY-554PCT		Date of mailing (day/month/year)	
International application No. PCT/JP2004/005740	International filing date (day/month/year) 21.04.2004	Priority date (day/month/year) 21.04.2003	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC			
Applicant SONY CORPORATION			

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- Box No. II Priority
- Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. **FURTHER ACTION**

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA") except that this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA/JP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.
PCT/JP2004/005740

Box No. I Basis of this opinion

1. With regard to the language, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
 This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b)).
2. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - a. type of material
 a sequence listing
 table(s) related to the sequence listing
 - b. format of material
 in written format
 in computer readable form
 - c. time of filing/furnishing
 contained in the international application as filed.
 filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
 furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
3. In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table(s) relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4. Additional comments:

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.
PCT/JP2004/005740

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	1-32	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1-32	YES
	Claims		NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-32	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations:

Document 1: JP 2002-207649 A (NEC Corp. *et al.*) 26 July 2002
 Document 2: JP 2002-73556 A (Nippon Telegraph And Telephone Corp.) 12 March 2002
 Document 3: JP 2002-82911 A (NEC Corp.) 22 March 2002
 Document 4: JP 2002-259606 A (International Business Machines Corp.) 13 September 2002

The inventions of claims 1-3, 11, 12, 18, 19, 25, 26, 31, and 32 appear to be novel and to involve an inventive step over documents 1 through 4 cited in the ISR.

The "first distributing server transmitting connection information for a second distributing server corresponding to first sorting information" and "second distributing server transmitting connection information for an authenticating server corresponding to second sorting information" described in the claims are not described in documents 1 through 4 and a person skilled in the art cannot easily conceive of them based on the features described in documents 1 through 4.

The inventions of claims 4-10, 13-17, 20-24, and 27-30 appear to be novel and to involve an inventive step over documents 1 through 4 cited in the ISR.

The "service server receiving sorting information from terminal equipment, using the received sorting information to receive connection information for the authenticating server from the distributing system, transmitting the received connection information to the terminal equipment, and receiving the results of authentication in the authentication server from the terminal equipment" of the claims is not described in documents 1 through 4 and a person skilled in the art cannot easily conceive of them based on the items described in documents 1 through 4.

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.
PCT/JP2004/005740

Box No. VII Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:

Because the Japanese of the description "terminal equipment using services provided by a service server in a terminal equipment authentication system according to claim 1, wherein the terminal equipment comprises..." of claim 2 is unclear as to the extent (all, or in part) to which the expression "according to claim 1" cites the features described in claim 1, the scope of the invention of claim 2 is unclear.

Likewise, because claims 3 and 5-32, which are stated in a form that cites the claim preceding the current claim, are unclear in the Japanese, in precisely the same manner, as to the extent to which features described in the preceding claim are cited, the scope of the inventions of the claims is also unclear.